

WISCONSIN FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Board Meeting

Monday 8, February 2010

Call to Order at 1035 hours

Roll Call

President	Sue Phillips	present
1 st Vice President	Tom Clark	excused
2 nd Vice President	Tom Wendt	present
Exec. Sec. Treasurer	Laurie Frey	present
Recording Secretary	Kevin T. Erdmann	present
Past President	Tod Doebler	present
Parliamentarian	Jeff Pollard	absent
Area 1	Vacant	
Area 2	Mark Mlekus Alt.	present
Area 3	Vacant	
Area 4	John Niederer	absent
Area 5	Gordy Jepsen	present
Area 6	Vacant	
Area 7	Joe Gabe	present
Area 8	Bill Becker	absent
Area 9	Dale Garski	present
Area 10	Tom Waydick	excused
Area 11	Vacant	
Area 12	Josef Eklund	absent
Area 13	Dave Krupich	present
Area 14	Vacant	
Area 15	Arthur Gil de Lamadrid	absent
Area 16	Dave Neihaus	absent
Dept. of Commerce	Joe Hertel	present
Guests: none		

Sue Phillips asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Sue began by saying that Ron Omernick contacted her and asked that another past president continue in that position as he will be retiring and will not be able to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. Sue mentioned that she asked Tod Doebler to continue as immediate past president. Tod accepted the request.

Sue then went over a spread sheet of the accounts and where the monies were spent and received. Current account balance is \$21,974.30. Sue then talked about getting a new or different auditor. The audit was near \$4000. Laurie Frey talked about different people she had talked to. She stated that she did not feel comfortable doing the tax end of it. She also stated that there was quite a price range anywhere from \$1800 on the high end

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and \$700 the lowest. Also one was \$4000 or \$120 an hour what ever comes out lower. Question was brought up: "Do we need to do another audit or just the taxes?" Tod Doebler spoke on the audit. Joe Hertel talked on what the Electrical Inspectors Association does for their audit and taxes. Tod made a motion that for the fiscal year 2009 we do an internal audit and for 2010 look into an audit or computation of the books. There was a second and the motion carried.

Laurie stated that the taxes will be done externally. Joe Hertel suggested they get sent certified mail with a return receipt. Laurie made a motion that Arndt and Assoc. LLC do the taxes for 2009. There was a second and the motion carried.

Laurie talked about getting credit cards for the board. There was discussion on the issue that credit cards would be a better option than debit cards. There was discussion on who would get a card and what they would be used for. Laurie will pursue options and get back to the board.

Sue mentioned that we should check into getting the old records scanned to a disc. This came from the fact that when Laurie took over the books there were numerous banker boxes of records. Some of which included the conference registration slips which were not thought were needed to be kept. Having the documents scanned would provide a ready copy for future boards and a realistic manner in which to maintain records. There was discussion that we need to go through the records and see what is needed and what is not. Joe mentioned a place that does it in the Madison area at a fairly reasonable price. Laurie will follow up on where to get the records scanned and several board members offered to assist her in sifting through the records.

Laurie said that the Association had changed banks from Wells Fargo to Associated Bank. The new institution provides better service. She also mentioned that our tax exempt status is now back. The Association was noncompliant for 2 years. The Area's will be getting tax exempt certificates from Laurie.

On membership, she stated that new membership cards have a number on them and that will stay with that person. This will make it easier to track membership and renewals. The number will be needed to register for the conference. We currently have 450 members at this time. There was discussion on when the memberships should be due. The Bylaws indicates that the membership renewals should be sent out by the end of October, but that causes such confusion during the conference that the Board will entertain a motion to change the membership renewals to a date after the conference. This may also benefit departments who cannot process new membership until after the first of the year.

Conference report. Sue stated that the conference was moved to Chula Vista for 2010 due to issues at the Plaza Hotel. Sue and Laurie did a meet and greet with Chula Vista. They are going to work with the committee to do their best. Room rates are \$99 nightly rate. You can get the state rate of \$70 a night if you have a check from your City or department and a tax exempt cert. or a P.O. Friday night can also be \$99 if anyone wants to stay an extra night. Hotel is working with the committee. Guy Santelli is back on the committee and is the hotel liaison. The conference is including a \$20 a day per person continental breakfast and plate lunch that will be used for the Lunch 'n Learn sessions. The

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fees will be split between the Association and the members attending the conference. Azarang Mirkhah (Ozzie) will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday. Ozzie spoke at the conference in EauClaire and was well received. With the overwhelming reception to the Lunch 'n Learns, those will continued. There will be no entertainment on Banquet night. The committee felt the money could be spent in a better place. Looking into casino night during vendor's night. The committee is hoping there will be more vendors this year. Conference is Tuesday through Friday adding JFS breakouts.

The theme for 2010 is Looking into a Fire Safe Future. Projected costs for the conference. There will be a late fee for the conference if not in on time the due date will be October 22nd. Conference fees are as follows:

	Member	Non Member
Preconference	\$115	\$150
One day	\$125	\$160
Two day	\$160	\$195
Full Conference	\$185	\$220
Late Fees	\$50	
Vendor Night	\$15	
Banquet Tickets	\$25	

All days will include a lunch. The cost increases are to partially cover the cost of the lunch and learn events. Laurie then spoke on vendor costs. There will be no tank program at the conference. The Tank Program will be independently run by Commerce and the Association will support them in whatever manner possible. There was a motion to accept the fee increase for 2010 and a second. There was discussion on the banquet and vendor night. There was an amendment to the motion to raise vendor night tickets to \$15. Motion carried. Laurie then asked that the conference fees be waived for the conference committee.

Sue spoke on the budget from 2009. There was \$39,000 allowed for the conference and \$28,000 was used. She then spoke on the 2010 budget. She explained on what was added and subtracted. Projected budget for 2010 is \$28,502. Changed the audit cost from \$4000 to \$500.

There was discussion on the tank program and training to be held regionally. There was further discussion on the 2010 budget.

No old business came before the board.

No committee reports at this time.

2009 conference report. Revenue was \$40,288.00, expenses were \$28,546.25.

Sue thanked the conference committee and said that they are doing a good job. Laurie is checking into Pub. Ed. Classes and what other classes will be at the conference. If anyone has suggestions for classes let the committee know. There will be no basic fire inspector at the 2010 conference, it will be done every other year. Some discussion on classes for the

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conference. Scholarships are available and please talk them up in your Area's.

New Business. Sue read a letter from Tom Clark on a proposal for a regional training position in the Association. Sue spoke on the letter and how a training director would work. She also came up with a prospective map of the area's. Tod also spoke about the letter, training topics. There was discussion on topics for the Area's. There were some great suggestions.

There was a brainstorming session on advantages of membership and also how and what to do for our membership. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. Then we went on to how to improve the organization. Sue will forward the list of items and we will talk about it at the next board meeting.

Department of Commerce update. John Anderson has retired. The areas for the other coordinators have been enlarged. Joe Hertel stated the problem is they cannot hire anyone until John is off the books. The Association expressed concerns with this issue with Joe. There were questions on CO detectors for CBRF's. Commerce is looking to modifying the rules. There is intention to replace John when they can.

Web site update. Sue went over a list of changes to the site. Changes would go through the Executive Secretary. Please wear a nice shirt to the next board meeting so pictures can be updated on the web.

Firefighters convention. The Association will have a table at vendors night March 25th. At the Chief's Education Association Spring Conference the 1st week in March Tom Clark and Sue Phillips are doing a presentation on the Association and the efforts on residential sprinklers.

NFPA conference. Laurie talked about going to the NFPA Conference and the benefits and resources that can be had. Tod spoke on IFMA and NFPA conferences. There was discussion on sending persons to the conference. Sue asked if anyone is interested in representing the Association at NFPA conference. It is the first week in June in Las Vegas.

Congressional Fire Service meeting. Tod suggested that someone attends and then suggested that it be the current president. Sue indicated she would be honored to represent the Association. She will work with the Chief Association on travel and plans.

Educational Opportunities. Sue requested authorization for she, Guy Santelli, Tom Clark and Thea Cox to attend a conference in Michigan on JFS sponsored by the Michigan State Fire Marshall's in March. The cost is \$20.00/person and the four will travel together; an overnight stay is on the Marshal's office. The intention is to bring this training back to the Association for presentation as part of the conference JFS offerings. Tod made a motion those expenditures to Michigan for the conference not to exceed \$1000. Motion carried. Sue asked if there are any other conferences to attend. Tod suggested Illinois, Michigan and the Rockies. Joe Gabe made a motion to send an association member to NFPA conference named in the future not to exceed \$1600. Motion carried. Area chairs check in you area if anyone is interested. Tod asked for two nights lodging for the IFMA conference. Dale Garski made a motion to pay for rooming not to exceed \$150 for IFMA conference. Motion carried.

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Future Board Meetings: Sue said that the dates for future board meetings will be May 10, August 9 and November 1. Meetings will start at 1030 in May and August and at 1630 on November 1st. Lunch/dinner will be provided.

Conference committee meeting on March 18th at 1600 hours in Menomonee Falls.

Sue talked about the Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial. She talked about the letter we received from them. After some research we found out that the State Firefighters Association does not give any monies. Sue suggested a raffle to raise money. Sue also suggested that members can give to the memorial on their own. The Association will stop donating now. If the memorial wants to they can have a fund raiser at the conference.

Meeting adjourned at 1416

Respectfully submitted

Kevin T. Erdmann, Recording Secretary

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